healthy state by exposing the follies of many of its members, I beg to forward you a copy of five tenders for finishing thirteen houses at East Surrey Grove, Peckham, opened on the 16th inst., in the office of Mr. F. Lett, architect, and in the presence of all the parties.

Wilson	£997
Climer	997
W. Harding	972
Macey and Son	958
Hetherington	570

I am, Sir, &c., C.

Another correspondent forwards the enclosed tenders, delivered for forty-eight detached houses, intended to be built on the Noland estate, forming St. James's-square. Quantities where supplied. The three first may not be correct to ten pounds.

Hicks	£48,900
Trego	48,430
Lock and Nesham	47,240
Stringer	40,640
Scissons and Co.	39,340
Atkin	29,830

And a third sends the following for a shop front with mahogany sash and door pilaster, entablature, plate glass, and mahogany fittings, in Mount-street, Westminster-road.

Casson	£490
Hard	448
Tombs	283
Wilson	269
Stevens	259

Miscellanea.

The Iron Trade.—There is a movement in the trade itself, says *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, which cannot be looked upon otherwise than with distrust, and that is, the mania now prevalent for increasing unlimitedly the quantities produced. The same is the case in the districts in the North, among the Welsh, and among the Scotch, as if each party were instigated by the demon of ambition to outvie his neighbour, and write himself the greatest ironmaster in the world.—As to the Scotch, it does not appear that some of the masters have the power at present, whether they have the ambition or not; for their workmen are still unsettled, and it is a remarkable fact, says a recent correspondent of the *Times*, that notwithstanding this, and that the stocks of pig-iron are very small, the price has continued to decline ever since the strike commenced, and the announcement of so many failures lately causes buyers and consumers to act with extreme caution. On 26th ultimo, the price is declared to be quite nominal, but though even so, had sunk to 67s. 6d. for 3·5 No. 1, and 2·5 No. 3, net cash, prompt, and free on board; but market quite inanimate. On 28th, the nominal price was declared to have fallen to 67s., with an utter want of either confidence or buyers.

The Improvement of Slough.—There is a plan on foot for establishing a general market at Slough. The committee appointed by the inhabitants, &c., to carry it into effect, are in treaty about some land at the Salthill end, on which to erect the necessary buildings. It will be carried out by shares of 10*l.* each. A correspondent informs us that the Market-place, 60 by 58, and hall, 60 by 28, with room for the Mechanics' Institute, will cost about 2,500*l.* The plans were prepared by Mr. W. H. Wigginton, jun., of Slough, and are in the Italian style. The opening lecture of the Mechanics' Institute (which is thriving) was given by the Rev. W. G. Cookesley, of Eton College, in April last. The railway from Windsor to London is about to be commenced at Datchet. The contractors engage to finish the line by May 31st, 1848. New galleries, the same correspondent says, have just been erected in that modern monstrosity, Upton New Church. When it was first purposed to take up the seats in the body of the church to convert them into pews, the curate (Rev. H. C. Knox) opposed it. When the pews were commenced, the bishop ordered them to be taken down, and the church restored to its former state, but the works were nevertheless completed. The bishop, it is said, has again interfered, and a vestry was to be held on Thursday, to lay his letter before the parishioners.

Projected Works, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the erection of a district church at Walker; the repair and re-pewing of the parish church of Kirby, Muxloe; the rebuilding of premises in Bloomsbury; various works in the erection of a house and offices at Casterton, Westmoreland; taking up the woodwork and slatepaving the footways of Worcester-bridge, and repairing the quay and side walls; making alterations and erecting two rooms at Blything Union Workhouse; repairing farm steading at Oldhamstocks; erecting several buildings for Government Laboratory Establishment at Gosport; erecting a farmhouse and farm buildings near Ferrybridge, Yorkshire; repairing four old houses near New Bond Street; extending 1,050 feet of sewer, and arching 2,048 feet and 850 feet of sewer (separate tenders and contracts) for Tower Hamlets Court of Sewers; sinking a well near Gosport; also for the execution of the whole works on Cameron's Coalbrook, Steam Coal and Swansea and Loughor Railway; for a supply of cast-iron sluices, cocks, pipes, and other metal works for the Bristol Water-works; and for a supply of ironmongery for the East-India Company.

The City of Wells.—Wells is a unique little city—fair in itself, fortunate in its locality; but if there is one spot in this busy England of ours which sooner than another I should select, did I want a long sleep, it is Wells, on ordinary occasions. Sunny and drowsy in summer, wet and silent in winter, it is quietude in itself, with its solemn and monastic cathedral close, its swept but stirless streets, its smooth-faced houses, closed hall doors, and polished brass knockers. Its very neatness hushes you; there is always one eccentric man to be seen in the street, but sometimes, even in noon day, not a second; and such is the repose usually in the place, that the only sound you sometimes hear—and that you can hear from one end to the other—is the splash of the public fountain that supplies the centre. I thought myself I could often recognise this sound, as, on some sultry summer's day, I descended the steep of Mendip, and looked down upon this picturesque place of slumberers. Wells, indeed, seems as if it had sprung up, cathedral and cross, and houses, all in one day in the olden time, and never changed since. The oldest inhabitant, I believe, does not recollect a house built there; there is a neat, stationary, and antique air about it—it ought to be the place of archives for the laws of Medes and Persians, that altered not. When the face of the whole country is tattooed with railways, and winding and twisting and turning lines find out the most lonely villages, Wells is an *urbs intacta* in this respect; all projects, at least projects that have been carried into practice, turn aside from it, so that you might, at this moment, as easily start for Palmyra in the desert as for the cathedral city of Somersetshire, so far as the possibility of reaching it by a public means of conveyance is concerned. There is no coach between Bristol and it, and perhaps no necessity for communication either, unless when some prebend gives a dinner, and is compelled to send here or to Bath for a salmon and shrimps. Yet with all this quiet, the old place, with its palace, its cathedral, its cross, is poetry itself; it is full of the memories of old—monuments of heroic and great times for the church—and all toned down by rustic softness and repose.—*Bristol Times.* [At the risk of losing some of this quiet, we should advise all who are interested in Wells to stir themselves quickly in obtaining more ready means of communication. It is at present cut off from the world.]

A Hint to the Owners of Hot-houses.—"Give me air, or I shall die!" is an exclamation which most people have heard occasionally, but which a gardener might listen to every hour of his existence, had he the skill to interpret the language of plants. "Give me air, or I shall die!" is incessantly repeated by every leaf in ninety-nine hothouses, greenhouses, conservatories, hibernatories, and pits in a hundred, all over Europe. But the voice is unheard; the pale looks, the feeble frames of the sufferers are disregarded; heat is offered as a substitute for air, and the duties of horticulture are thought to be fulfilled when a blanket is wrapped round a patient perishing of suffocation.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

Construction and Position of Bedsteads.—A French surgeon states, that by fitting bedsteads with glass feet, and isolating them about 18 inches from the wall of the apartment, he has cured the patients sleeping on them of many nervous affections. Suspicions are beginning to arise too, that our well-being may be affected by sleeping parallel to, or at right angles with, the line of the terrestrial magnetic current. The house in which we live has a considerable influence on our sensations sometimes little suspected.

Guernsey Memorial Competition.—A correspondent states, that the premium offered for a design for this memorial was awarded to Mr. Colling, whose design was to be erected according to the advertisements, for 1,500*l.*, but that the lowest tender sent by builders is just 3,000*l.* He alludes to it as another instance of injustice to competitors.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*H. G.*"—The measures of a chimney that will not draw are too abstruse to be dealt with by us at a distance. Conveying the smoke under ground without good provision was ensuring a failure.

"*E. J.*"—Apply to a solicitor.

"*Subscriber*" (Houghton).—"A number of arches over a village for the purpose of carrying water," are properly termed an "aqueduct."

"*V. I.*"—Chapple and White (Millbank), once did some for us very well.

"*J. W. L. L.*"—We incline to the use of freshly-made mortar from unslacked lime; in frosty weather unquestionably so.

"*C. K.*"—Consult, through a member of the Institute, the report of committee on charges.

"*Subscriber*" (N. B.)—Connect the lightning conductor with the vane. The conductor need not "be perfectly isolated from the building by a non-conducting substance."

"*J. P.*"—The letter scarcely seems necessary. Enough has perhaps been said.

Received.—"Indian Ink." "Leader on" (Cardiff). "Member of the Council." "F. and G." "Competitor." "Anti-humbug." "J. G." "J. P." "Mr. D." "C. H." "The Trademan's Book of Oriental Designs." Part IV., 1847, Paterpaster Row. "Indian Magazine" for September. "View of the Church and Schools St. Paul's, Bermondsey;" also of Schools St. Michael's, Pimlico." Mr. R. R. Tegius, Architect. "Caldwell's Musical Journal." Part III. (Caldwell, Waterloo-place, Corr. Amen Corner). A remarkably cheap publication, well deserving of success.

"*Books, Prices, and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, AND CONTRACTORS.

THE Architectural Carving Company beg to inform the Public, that Specimens of their CARVING IN WOOD AND STONE may be seen at No. 21, Old Bond-street. Works, late Sir F. Chantrey's foundry, Eccleston-place, Pimlico.

TO BUILDERS, PAINTERS, AND OTHERS.

MESSRS. WOOD and Co., GRAINERS and WRITERS to the Trade only, 70, York Road, Lambeth; and at 8, Cross Street, Blackfriars Road.

FIRE BRICKS.—WARD & HART, Honduras Wharf, Bankside, Manufacturers and Exporters of every sort of Fire Bricks, Lumps, Tiles, Clay, &c. Builders, Gas Companies, Engineers, Shippers and all large buyers supplied from ships from the Manufactories direct, at the lowest prices. A large Stock of every quality always on hand at the Wharf as above. Goods made to pattern at a short notice. Patent Coke Drying Malting Tiles. Lime, Sand, Gravel, Bricks and Tiles, of every description.

MORTGAGE AND ANNUITY OFFICE, No. 120, CHANCERY-LANE.

PERSONS requiring LOANS by way of MORTGAGE, or otherwise, upon any available security, may at all times procure an advance to the extent of from £100 to £10,000, of so much as the property will bear, by applying to Mr. BRAY, surveyor, at the offices as above.

N.B. To expedite the proceeding, personal application at the office would in all cases be better, the party bringing with them the abstract of title, plans, &c.

THE most perfect DRY GAS METER in the World.—N. DEFRIES' Dry Gas Meter maker, in directing the attention of the Public and the Gas Companies to his having just erected an extensive Factory, 16 Hampstead road, in conjunction with his old-established premises, 67, St. Martin's-lane, begs to say that he can now MEET any DEMAND for METERS, from 5 lights to 1,000. The size of 18,000 meters and the rapidly increasing demand, stamp as complete a meter that eight years' experience has proved to be unaffected by weather, by tipsy, or by injurious gas. He invites attention to the fact of many of his large meters being in successful action at the Houses of Parliament, the Royal Dockyards, the Thames Tunnel, Theatres, Churches, Club houses, &c., and has powerful and flattering testimonials at either factory, which may be obtained on application.

LESLIE'S PATENTS.—GAS CONSUMERS guaranteed the following important monetary and economic advantages:—

1. His BURNERS are purposely MADE TO DEFLECT FOUL GAS, so injurious to health, as destructive of property, and so expensive to the consumer; the expense and danger increasing with the impurity.

2. His new Patent GLASS COMBUSTION CHAMBERS are made in size for the MORE PERFECT PRODUCTION OF LIGHT, from either three, four, or five cubic feet of gas per hour, according to the requirement of light by the consumer, all of which are applicable to size and the same burner of twenty-six holes.

3. These philosophical arrangements produce an IMMENSE INCREASE OF LIGHT, from any given quantity of Gas, over every burner yet offered to the public; and over the Fish tails and flat wings the increase of light is above 100 per cent.

4. His new Patent ATMOSPHERIC GAS ECONOMISER effectually PREVENTS the WASTE, NUISANCE, and EXPENSE arising from sudden variations in supply from the gas mains, and renders the Burners Light producers, and not smoke-producers: these will vary to prove according to the duty they have to perform, from 10s. upwards.

PRICES:—Upright Burners, with Convenient Spring Glass Holders, with either mixed glass, Combustion Chamber included, 7s. each; Side Burners, ditto, 4s. each, extra Glass Combustion Chambers, 2d. each. SAMPLE PACKAGES, with one burner and a set of the glass combustion chambers, will be forwarded on receipt of a post-office order, payable to JOHN LESLIE, at the Charing Cross office, for 8s. if a side burner, or 10s. if the upright be desired.

LESLIE'S PATENT FOR ECONOMY OF FUEL AND VENTILATION.

Coal Consumers, with all the advantages of an open cheerful fire, are guaranteed a saving of 50 per cent., with a beautiful system of ventilation always in operation. Licences will be granted by the Patentee (Joe Gulman) each Stove, with full instructions to Builders and others to erect. The construction is entirely of brick and iron, and so economical of space and materials that the whole expense will not exceed the present unphilosophical chimneys and fireplaces.

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